employed on the line. The viaduct across the river Greta, which consists of twelve arches of considerable span and height, has been contracted for by Messrs. Walmsley and Headley, of Preston, to be built of stones from Newby Moor Quarry.——The proprietor of the *Hull Packet* has published a lithographic view of the Hull railway station and hotel, from designs furnished by the architect, Mr. Andrew, of York. ——Workmen are now busily employed in clearing the site at the Spital, Newcastle-on-Tyne, for the central railway station there, which is to cost 94,000*l*.——On the railway works, near Mallow, Ireland, a man was killed on Tuesday week by the falling in of an earth bank; and a correspondent of a Cork paper says:—"Not a day passes without one or more accidents. I have heard it stated that the overseers, who are themselves sub-contractors, make the poor workmen cut in too deeply, in order thereby to facilitate the fall of the earth-bank, and thus save the extra expense which would be incurred by doing it without danger to life or limb."—On 15th inst. all the railways throughout the kingdom of Prussia are to be simultaneously opened, that being the birthday of the king.—As soon as the line of electric telegraph between Vienna and Prague is completed, every locomotive is to be furnished with a small electric apparatus, by aid of which, and by that of a wire, which can, at pleasure, be put into communication with that of the railway, the train can announce to every station far or near, the events it may have learnt upon the road. We had occasion, we think, to report some time since, that this project was in hand. We are glad to find it still tenacious of existence, as are so few really good or useful schemes such as this *may* be, or at all events, ought to be.

VENTILATION OF THE CONSUMPTIVE HOSPITAL.

A CORRESPONDENT has forwarded to us the following account of the mode adopted for ventilating the hospital for consumption at Brompton, by Dr. Arnott.

For ventilating purposes, air may either be *drawn* in and out, or driven in and out. In the present case, as the more economical mode, the second has been adopted, and the rotatory fan and the screw are the instruments employed. Dr. Arnott has derived the main idea of his plan from an apparatus invented about a century ago by the Rev. Dr. Hales. It consisted of a bellows-like chamber, with a tube and nozzle, through which the air was expelled into the chamber to be purified. The machine was very generally employed in the English and Danish navies, but was ultimately abandoned because of the labour required to force the air through the narrow nozzle and pipe. One-half the ship's crew were required to ventilate the other half. Dr. Arnott saw the advantages of this contrivance, and perceived also that he could dispense with the enormous power required to propel the air, simply by enlarging the area of the nozzle to the same calibre as that of the main box. The application of steam power also renders the apparatus complete. It now consists of two wooden quadrangular boxes, in which two hollow pistons move up and down alternately, by means of a rod attached to either end of a wooden beam, on the principle of a steam-engine. The beam is moved by a steam-engine of about one-horse power. When the wooden piston descends in the box, a valve opens in the upper half of the box, through which the air is admitted; when the piston ascends, the valve is closed, and the air is propelled into a central chamber. The same effect is produced in the lower half of the box; and thus, in both boxes, each ascent and descent of the piston impels a quantity of air into the central chamber situated between the two. From the central chamber the air rises into another apartment, filled with plates of copper, heated by an adjacent fire. These are placed at distances of half an inch from one another, and the air passing between them is thus raised to the desired temperature. The warm atmosphere now passes into a large tube, which ascends to the top story of the building, but in its course gives off a branch at each flat or landing. These are divided into ramifications, the narrowest of which go to the nearest apartments, and the widest to the most distant. They run along the skirtings of each room, into which they open by valvular fissures. The impure air of each room escapes by other valvular apertures, opening into the chimney as high as the ceiling. The apparatus is said to be capable of throwing into the building *three thousand* cubic feet of air, which, as the hospital contains a hundred inmates, is an allowance of twenty cubic feet per minute to every person.

THE ARCHITECTURAL ASSOCIATION.

THIS society (a reconstruction, as our readers will remember, of the "Association of Architectural Draughtsmen") will hold their first conversazione at their new rooms, Lyon's Hill Hall, Strand, on Friday next. A prospectus put forth by the committee states, that,—"The chief objects of the Architectural Association are, the advancement of the study of design in architecture, the development of true principles of criticism, and the affording means whereby the student may acquire an aptitude for the application, re-combination, and extension of the present materials of the art." And that,—"For the attainment of these objects, the business of the ordinary meetings of the association will consist of the production of designs for previously determined subjects; the reading of papers on the several branches of science and art, comprehended under the term architecture; free and open discussion; and the contribution to the society's portfolio of subjects displaying either originality of design, examples of construction and decoration, or modes of representation."

The annual subscription is ten shillings, payable quarterly.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, WIDCOMBE, BATH.

THE style of this church, briefly alluded to in our leading article last week, is the decorated; it is 98 feet long from east to west, and 64 feet wide from north to south, in the clear of the walls. There is a transept to the north, in which is a vestry-room and seats for 300 children, about half of whom are seated in a gallery in the transept. The body of the church affords seats for 900 adults. The ground on which the church is erected is so limited in extent as not to admit of a projecting chancel; one is formed by stone screens at parclose, in the easternmost intercolumns of the nave. The church has little decoration, as may be supposed, when it is known that the cost, exclusive of site, &c., was 5,000*l*. The spire is 150 feet high. Messrs. Manners and Gill were the architects.

A VOICE FROM WINDSOR.*

THIS "Voice" in a blue cover, says that the royal town is being ruined by the unwholesome restrictions thrown in the way of visitors to the Castle, which, said "Voice" aforetime, but good Queen can know nothing of. Instead of the average annual number of 150,000 admirers, whom "Voice," only 27,000 passed through in 1846, when the visit was made "free" to the public, but by tickets only obtainable in London. The inconvenience and loss which followed this regulation led to the issuing of tickets, from the Winchester Tower, in the Castle, to "residents and visitors at Windsor, who have not had an opportunity of obtaining them in London," but, according to our "Voice," Mr. John Roberts, therein placed to dispense them, exercised such an amusing caprice, as to make this order of little service. "Voice" speaketh out plainly,—perhaps it cometh from a stomach, which may be pinched,—and will, we hope, be listened to so far as it presenteth reason.

THE MASONS AND THE FOUR O'CLOCK PRIVILEGE.—About 150 masons dined at White Conduit House, on 28th ultimo, "in commemoration of the achievement of the four o'clock movement," and a testimonial was presented to one of their number for his services in obtaining this privilege from the masters.

* Strange, Paternoster-row.

EFFECT OF SARACENIC ARCHITECTURE ON THAT OF VENICE.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Athenæum*, in a letter from Venice, refers to the effect of Arabian art upon that of Venice. Such of the communication as relates to architecture we extract:—"There can be little doubt that the earliest good edifices of the Venetians were Byzantine;—but the fame and beauty of the Saracenic style soon swept all before it. The Ducal palace, in which the Saracenic predominates, seems to have been constructed by Calendario in the middle of the 14th century—and to have been thus a contemporary of the mosque of Sultan Hasan in Cairo, just after the two great Kalaons had added so many magnificent edifices to that capital:—and surely the Arabic reconstruction of the elements of the sublime and beautiful in architecture after their dissolution in the lower empire is immeasurably superior to that of the northern Gothic. The Arabs in their details shewed (excepting perhaps in Granada) less curious and elaborate tracery than the men of the north; but with them it was always in subordination to some great feature either of the elevation or the interior—and always formed a harmonizing contrast to some more simple part of an edifice, or a relief to the mere grandeur of its outline. This it is which has made the Ducal palace the most beautiful edifice in the world: The old Piazza di San Marco, before it was burnt down—as shewn in the large and curious picture of 'Gentile Bellino' (A.D. 1496) at the Accademia—was entirely Saracenic; so that the Piazza must have borne the closest resemblance to the court of a mosque. For it was then much smaller; being narrower by the breadth of the campanile, and something more. Not only were the archivolts of the horse shoe form and the cornices serrated, but even in the minutest particulars the Oriental style was imitated.

Several remarkable edifices of Saracenic architecture are yet visible on the Grand Canal:—one of which is the Fondaco dei Turchi. There is, however, no connection between its architecture and the subsequent destination which gave it its name. It is supposed to have been built in the 12th or 13th century;—when the Saracenic taste was in full prevalence.

"After the Italian invasion of the Cinquecento, and the different direction taken by Palladio, Sansovino, and Sammichell, Venice rapidly changed appearance. To such houses as are seen in Giovanni Mansueti and Vittore Carpaccio succeeded the modern Palazzo, with its balconies and pilasters. The change is not to be regretted as regards Venice in general; but I certainly think that the old Piazza di San Marco, with its Arabic colonnades, its serrated cornices, and its bright red pavement streaked with white marble, would have been more in unison with the church and the Ducal palace. St. Mark's is still the most oriental of all the edifices in Venice. Place an ignorant Cairene at the gate next the Piazza dei Leoni, and you would have some difficulty in persuading him that Venice was not the seat of a long and illustrious Saracenic occupation,—and that St. Marco is not a mosque abandoned to defilement by the anger of God or the pusillanimity of the bearers of the banners of Islam. The crowd of domes, the innumerable costly pillars of all sorts, sizes, colours, and capitals, which have the air of having adorned successively the palaces of antiquity, the churches of the lower empire, and the mosques of the Saracens, at length stand in enduring commemoration of the Millennium during which the Levant influenced the arts and exercised the arms of the great republic. Even the turned wooden grates of window frames above the great gates are of the very patterns used to this day in Cairo—and which were in the 15th century all gilt." The Palazzo Loredano, a peculiarly light and handsome specimen of Saracenic architecture, built since the invasion of the Italian style—and the celebrated Ca Doro, now the property of Taglioni—are both so well known as to require no further consideration.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE BRIDGE.—Recent tremendous gales have nearly destroyed one of the piers in course of erection for the intended suspension-bridge here, concerning which we spoke sometime since. It is supposed that the whole mass must be taken down.

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